

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMERICAN PROFESSOR HAROLD SEGEL

1. HAROLD SEGEL, PROFESSOR OF SLAVIC LITERATURE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, HAS BEEN AWARDED TWO HIGH POLISH HONORS DURING THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATORS CONFERENCE OF POLISH LITERATURE NOW UNDERWAY IN WARSAW. PROFESSOR SEGEL, ONE OF THE FOREMOST WESTERN TRANSLATORS OF POLISH LITERARY AND DRAMATIC WORKS, RECEIVED THE TITLE OF LAUREATE IN THE POLISH AUTHORS ASSOCIATION (STOWARZYSZENIE AUTOROW "ZAIKS"). HE ALSO WAS GIVEN A MEDAL BY THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN PROMOTING POLISH CULTURE ABROAD.

2. THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR IS AMONG SIX AMERICANS TAKING PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POLISH LITERATURE, AN EVENT HELD EVERY FIVE YEARS. CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEMINARS AND LECTURES ON RECENT TRENDS IN POLISH LITERATURE, ARE ORGANIZED IN BOTH WARSAW AND KRAKOW. THE CONFERENCE ENDS ON OCTOBER 4.

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3. PROFESSOR SEGEL, WHO TEACHES POLISH AND RUSSIAN LITERATURE

AT COLUMBIA, BELIEVES THAT AMERICAN INTEREST IN POLISH CULTURE IS GROWING. JUST IN THE NEW YORK AREA, HE NOTED, A LARGE NUMBER OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES HAVE COURSES IN POLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE. IN PART, HE ATTRIBUTES THIS TREND TO "HEIGHTENED AWARENESS" AMONG AMERICANS OF POLISH BACKGROUND, WHO WANT TO EXPLORE AND LEARN ABOUT THE LAND OF THEIR ANCESTORS. AN EVEN MORE HOPEFUL DEVELOPMENT, PROFESSOR SEGEL ADDED, IS THE INTEREST EXHIBITED BY AMERICAN STUDENTS OF NON-POLISH ANCESTRY. FOR THEM, POLISH CULTURE IS A "GREAT REVELATION", PARTICULARLY THE DISTINCTIVE AND SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF POLAND DURING THE RENAISSANCE AND 19TH CENTURY PERIODS. "IT IS VERY INTERESTING CULTURE", PROFESSOR SEGEL SAID, WHICH STIMULATES IN AMERICAN STUDENTS A "DESIRE TO KNOW (IT) BETTER".

4. THE MAIN PROBLEM, THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR REMARKED IS THE SHORTAGE OF POLISH LITERARY WORKS -- IN POLISH AND IN TRANSLATION AVAILABLE TO AMERICAN STUDENTS. ONE PURPOSE OF HIS CURRENT VISIT TO POLAND IS TO ACQUAINT POLISH CULTURAL OFFICIALS WITH THE NEED TO EXPAND THE FLOW OF SUCH MATERIALS TO AMERICAN CLASSROOMS. SHARPLY INCREASED QUANTITIES OF EVERYTHING -- TEXTBOOKS, LITERARY READERS, AND DRAMATIC ANTHOLOGIES -- ARE NEEDED TO MEET THE GROWING APPETITE OF AMERICAN STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS FOR POLISH CULTURE, HE SAID.
BRADSHAW

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